

September 17, 1979

Memo to File:

RE: Ranchers Exploration & Development Corp.  
Escalante Silver Mine  
State Lease ML-17763 and ML-17764  
ACT/021/004  
Iron County, Utah

An inspection of this operation, north of Enterprise, was performed by Ron Daniels and Jim Smith on August 28, 1979 in the company of Paul Matthews and Garth Logsdon of Ranchers.

The operation will be a reactivation of an existing underground operation which has been mined sporadically in the past. Currently, Ranchers is in the process of developing a pilot exploration program to determine overall mining feasibility; which will include driving underground openings, conducting test stoping operations, and obtaining bulk ore samples for metallurgical testing. Ranchers will also incorporate a moderate dewatering program during this pilot phase, consisting of five existing vertical turbine pumps to transfer the mine water to a natural recharge point in Shoal Creek via a canal and pipeline at a rate of approximately 11,000 gallons per minute.

Presently existing on the property are four metal buildings, three shafts (two connecting), two ore stockpiles, and one waste rock stockpile. Plans are to construct another 30' x 50' building, siting some trailers, constructing some short access roads, and conducting a moderate drilling program. During the inspection a backhoe was excavating a trench to install a new drain field for the septic tank. This trench revealed a shallow sandy soil with a caliche layer about two feet below the surface. The hill where the structures are located is very rocky composed mainly of rhyolites and andesites. The lower valley area is alluvium.

The principal vegetation in the area of the operation is sagebrush, broom snakeweed, galleta grass, cactus, and associated annuals.



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Changes in the pilot phase will be submitted shortly to cover the new location of the incline, waste rock stockpile, topsoil stockpile, ore stockpile, connecting roads, and buildings which are not shown correctly on previously submitted maps.

Mining and all surface facilities will be located on fee and Bureau of Land Management land, with the exception of some access roads being constructed on State land involving leases ML-17763 and ML-17764. A notice of action will need to be prepared for the E.C.C. to handle this situation which is deemed to have a minimal impact.

A new mining and reclamation plan will be filed when it has been decided to commence mining on a full scale.

JWS  
JAMES W. SMITH, JR.  
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

cc: John Blake, State Lands

JWS/te